(c) whether Government had announced in the Budget Session to export 2.5 million tonnes of non-durum wheat; and

(d) if so, how much of the wheat has been exported so far and if no wheat has been exported till 31st July, 1995, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) As per the EXIM Policy both basmati and non-basmati rice are freely exportable without any quantity and price restrictions. There is also no obligation on part of the exporters to register their contracts with any designated agency. The data on export contracts signed by the exporters is not maintained. Measures initiated to enhance export of non-basmati rice include:

(i) removal of all price and quantity restrictions.

(ii) Food Corporation of India has also been permitted to export/sell for export, 2.0 million MTs of fine and superfine rice from the central pool during 1995-96.

(iii) assistance in organising overseas campaigns and participation in trade fairs/exhibitions;

(iv) providing financial assistance to exporters in improving quantity, packing, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys etc.

(c) and (d) For the current year, 1995-96, export of non-durum wheat upto a ceiling of 2.5 million tonnes has been permitted. Upto May 1995, 2755 tonnes of wheat valued at Rs. 1.53 corores (source DGCI&S) has been exported.

Reviving sick branches of Super Bazar

1976. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to revive sick and loss making branches of Super Bazar;

(b) if so, the names of these branches;

(c) whether a group of MPs have been asked to inquire in the matter; and

(d) what measures are being taken to revive these branches?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Relaxing of tariffs for U.S. Companies

1977. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to relax tariffs further for U.S. companies on a case by case basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof with benefits accuring to the country;

(c) whether such a move will attract more foreign investment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Rates and quantities of Imported/ Exported agricultural produce

1978. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the rate and quantity of onions, potatoes, wheat, Basmati rice, non-Basmati rice, cotton and other primary agricultural produce exported/imported during the last three years, year-wise and foreign exchange earned and spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The rates at which specific agricultural commodities are exported and imported are not maintained. The quantity and value of exports and imports of agricultural products during the last three years are given in the Foreign Trade Statistics published by DGCI&S, Calcutta copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.